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give allegiance to the temporal laws of the country of their adoption. The destiny of the Jews is only a spiritual one. This destiny and the fact that Hebrews are to reside in all parts of the world are perhaps sufficiently indicated in a Zionite song with which I close this contribution, a song which, whether sung by Englishmen to the air of their national anthem or by Americans to "My Country, 'tis of Thee," will perhaps appeal to its readers and tell the world the heart-thoughts of Zionism.

"God, we implore of Thee
End Zion's misery.
Send her Thine aid !
Send Thou her sons to heal
Wounds which the years reveal,
Woes which at last in weal
For aye shall fade !

"God, loving, tender, good !
As if in widowhood
She weeps for Thee !
Be once more reconciled,
As father pities child
Pity her grief so wild
She weeps for Thee !

"Now bid her weep no more,
Do Thou her sons restore—
Love-gift from Thee !
Make those who still would stay
In other lands obey
Thy holy law that they
World-priests may be !

For some by Thy command
Must live in ev'ry land
To make Thee known !
"Priests to the world are we,
This is our destiny,
For all shall bend the knee
To Thee alone !"

H. PEREIRA MENDES.

POSTAL CURRENCY.

CONVENIENCE in small things makes possible a great business. A busy man hesitates to buy a post office order. He is averse to subjecting himself to the annoyance of going to the post office, perhaps standing in line, to wait his turn, or at least to wait while the money order clerk writes and punches various slips of paper. Therefore, when occasion arises for the transmission of a small sum of money through the mail, he casts about for some more convenient method.

Assuming that the law of the unit is the law of the mass, let us put ourselves in the place of the average citizen, and from his standpoint view the matter. Perhaps he owes a friend a small sum of money, less than \$5.00; possibly he desires to order some article he has seen advertised, or to subscribe for a favorite newspaper or magazine, or to secure some book not kept in stock by his local stationer. The first question prominent in his mind, after determining to make the remittance, is, "How shall the money be transmitted?" If he be possessed of much leisure time, he may determine to drop in at the post office some convenient day and purchase a government postal note; but if he is busy, and anxious to finish up the matter while he has it in mind, he will at once cast about for some way to send the money, without subjecting himself to the inconvenience of the present method.

Postage stamps offer a means, if he is fortunate enough to have them in stock. Lacking a sufficient quantity of these, he may cut, in a piece of pasteboard, holes large enough to accommodate some silver coin, and insert the pieces therein, bid his money an affectionate farewell, with a hope that it will reach its destination safely. A check on his inland bank may suggest itself. This is a convenient method for him, but when the recipient undertakes to realize from a small check of \$1.00, \$2.00 or \$3.00, the toll for collection seems heavy, and comes out of the wrong pocket.

If of a persevering turn of mind, he may follow up the subject until he accomplishes his desire and sends the small sum of money in one form or another, but many of the less persistent will postpone the day of trouble, or abandon entirely the idea of making the purchase contemplated. The difficulty surrounding the procurement of safe money for transmission through the mail is so pronounced that it very seriously affects all businesses in which small accounts appear.

The manager of one of the large metropolitan papers writes: "We are losing money constantly on account of the immense quantity of stamps we have to take in payment of bills, and these must be sold at a discount. We hope for some solution of the question which will tend to do away with what is now an unmitigated nuisance." A magazine publisher writes: "I have just now been handed a bill for a considerable amount of money required in payment for some punctured cards which we send to correspondents in which to remit coin." A prominent manufacturer writes: "I am satisfied we fail to sell three-fourths of those who would send us money if they could do so without the trouble of securing postal notes."

Seeking a remedy, the first and most prominent point presented is the need of some form of money which the average citizen is likely to have near at hand, and which can be instantly transferred from a negotiable piece, into a piece of exchange payable only to the payee, whose name may be written in ink by the sender. We have seen that the loss of business under the present method, and the general cause of complaint are because of the trouble in obtaining safe money.

Convenience, then, is paramount; safety in transmission is secondary. This is shown by the thousands of cases where individuals enclose negotiable bank notes in letters, preferring to run the risk of loss rather than subject themselves to the annoyance of obtaining government money orders. It is difficult to form a reasonable estimate of the amount of toll lost by the government annually, from remittances sent outside of the government postal note plan. Those who receive large aggregate amounts in small sums, variously estimate that from three to twenty times more money comes in what might be called irregular ways, than in the ordinary government postal notes, and yet between \$170,000,000 and \$200,000,000 in money orders are sent through the mails each year, at an expenditure for clerk hire of nearly \$700,000 per year.

The Post Cheque, which is being urged upon the Treasury Department, the Post Office Department, and Congress, by a considerable number of prominent business men, is in the form of paper currency, to be issued in five, ten, twenty-five and fifty-cent pieces, also in one, two and five dollar notes, handsomely engraved, with about three-quarters of the face left blank, with spaces in which to write the name of the person to whom it will be payable, his city and State, also a space for the name of the sender and the signature of the receiver.

It is proposed to make this actual money for every-day circulation, and the plan is to issue fifty million dollars in Post Cheques. When this form of fractional currency gets into the hands of the people, it is thought that the first difficulty in the present problem of transmission of money through the mails, that of inconvenience, will be solved, and the individual who decides to make a small purchase can, at the instant his decision is reached, prepare his money for safe transmission. Out comes his pocket-book, and the necessary notes, which up to this time have passed from hand to hand

in the various business transactions, are now, by a few strokes of the pen, transformed into safe exchange, payable at any post office. A one or two-cent stamp is to be affixed to the lower right hand corner of the piece of money for the government fee, and the signature of the sender is to cross this stamp and thereby cancel it.

Each individual is his own clerk, and is required to do no waiting, nor subject himself to any inconvenience in procuring a safe form of transmissible money. This last feature, in itself, would mean a saving to the government of clerk hire, in the aggregate, of \$700,000 per annum, and while the total would be less on the individual transaction, an increase in the aggregate receipts of the government is expected, owing to the fact that practically all transactions by mail would, under the Post Cheque plan, pay a toll, whereas under the present plan, it is only the minority of such transactions that the government reaps any benefit from. A two-cent stamp is considered of less value by the average man than two pennies. He does not hesitate, by reason of the question of cost, to expend a two-cent stamp in making his money payable to the person to whom he remits it, and safe from thievery. Instances will occur where two or more Post Cheques will be required to exactly cover the sum desired; that is to say, if one wished to send \$2.50, a two-dollar Post Cheque or two one-dollar cheques would be required, together with a fifty-cent cheque.

It is proposed that the fee on the notes under \$1.00 shall be one cent each, and from one dollar to five dollars, two cents each. When these Post Cheques are received by commercial houses, they are indorsed and deposited in the bank, as is usual with government money orders, the bank clerk taking the receipts of the day, of that particular form, to the post office for redemption. The notes are then cancelled and the bank clerk or other individual presenting them for payment will receive new blank and negotiable Post Cheques in payment therefor. By this process, the notes are kept fresh and clean, as is the case with the Bank of England notes. An embargo is at present placed upon that portion of the business of the country which is represented by small remittances, and it is estimated that the volume of such business must exceed one billion dollars per year, of which the government handles but a small proportion in the way of government postal notes. It is reasonable to expect that if the embargo is removed, and convenience takes the place of difficulty and inconvenience in method, a very considerable increase will be the result.

C. W. POST.

THE CANADIAN PLEBISCITE.

THE plebiscite on prohibition recently taken throughout the Dominion of Canada was a new departure in Parliamentary procedure. There is no precedent for it in the annals of English legislation, and none that I am aware of in connection with Parliaments in other English-speaking countries patterned after the British model. In its earlier stages, the plebiscite movement also made an inroad on the usages and traditions of Government by means of Cabinets, and it would have led to a further inroad on these usages, or to a complete reorganization of the Laurier Cabinet, had the vote in favor of prohibition been sufficiently large to be accepted by the Government as a mandate for legislation.